

What is claimed is:

1. A medication organizing system for preparing sealed packages of medication comprising:

a plurality of hoppers;

5 a plurality of nozzles, each of said nozzles associated with one of said hoppers;

a passageway between each of said hoppers and said nozzle;

a hopper door for opening said passageway between said hopper and said nozzle;

10 a multi-compartmented container, said container comprising a plurality of packages, said packages being of a size and alignment to allow said packages to be placed with said nozzles such that each of said packages can receive pills from said hoppers; and

a sealing arrangement for sealing said packages.

2. A multi-compartmented container, said container consisting of:

15 seven packages arranged side by side in a linear arrangement;

said packages being of a size and alignment to allow said container to be lifted onto and envelop seven nozzles;

said packages marked on their front surface with the days of the week;

20 said front surface of said packages capable of accepting ink from a pen or marker;

said packages including a space on said front surface for the date to be written;

said front surface of said packages including check blocks for marking the

Docket 1555 (Gibson)

medication period of the day;

said packages providing a sealing area for sealing;

said packages having a transparent rear wall which allows viewing of any medications within said packages; and

5 said container having tear areas between said packages to permit their separation from the remainder of said container.

3. The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the front wall of said packages preferably include an inner layer of clear Surlyn™ and an outer layer of aluminum foil and said rear wall includes a single layer of Surlyn™.

10 4. The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the bottom of said packages include a gusset.

5. The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said packages are preferably 1.625 inches wide and 2.75 inches deep.

6. The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said sealing
15 arrangement is a heat sealing unit comprising:

a metal strip capable of being electrically heated;

a hinged cover;

a heat sensor disposed within said cover; and

a light or LED connected to said sensor, said light or LED changing state when
20 said sensor detects that the packages have achieved an optimal sealing temperature.

7. The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said sealing arrangement includes adhesive strips on said packages, said adhesive strips sealing said

Docket 1555 (Gibson)

packages when pressed together.

8. The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the front wall of said packages has a U-shaped area removed to enable easier opening of said packages.

9. The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said nozzles have an
5 angled surface at the discharge end.

10. The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein said packages include tear notches below said sealing area to enable easy opening of said packages.

11. A method of organizing medications including the steps of:

providing a medication sorting and dispensing unit having a plurality of
10 hoppers, a vertical nozzle extending from each of said hoppers, an internal passageway between each of said hoppers and said nozzles, a plurality of hopper doors for simultaneously closing or opening said passageways between said hoppers and said nozzles, and a shelf disposed under said nozzles;

providing a multi-compartmented packaging container, said container consisting
15 of a plurality of bags arranged side by side in a linear arrangement, said bags of a size and alignment to allow said container to be lifted onto said nozzles such that each of said bags conforms to and envelops one of said nozzles and said container rests on said shelf, said bags marked on their front surface with the days of the week, said front surface of said bags capable of accepting ink from a pen or marker, said bags including
20 a space on said front surface for the date to be written, said front surface of said bags including check blocks for marking the medication period of the day;

providing an electrical supply;

Docket 1555 (Gibson)

providing a sealing arrangement for sealing said packaging container, said
sealing arrangement including a metal strip capable of being resistively heated by said
electrical supply, a hinged cover, a heat sensor disposed within said cover, and a light or
LED connected to said sensor, said light or LED changing state when said sensor senses
5 the proper sealing temperature for said packaging container;

activating said electrical supply;

lifting said container onto said nozzles, each of said bags marked with the days
of the week therefore associated with one of said hoppers;

closing said doors;

10 placing one or more tabular or capsular medications in each hopper, said
medications corresponding to the preferred dosage for said associated day and a given
time of day;

opening said doors simultaneously thereby allowing said medications to fall into
said bags;

15 removing said container from said nozzles;

opening the cover of said sealing arrangement;

placing said container into said sealing arrangement such that said metal strip is
positioned near the open end of said bags;

pressing said hinged cover upon said container thereby sealing said open ends
20 of said bags;

writing the appropriate date on said space on said front surface of each of said
bags;

Docket 1555 (Gibson)

marking one of said check blocks thereby identifying the medication period of the day.